

NEEDED, USED PRESCRIPTION GLASSES TOUCH THE LIVES OF MANY

Serving a life sentence for murdering his wife, after 25 years, the inmate has become a model prisoner. As such, he has earned the privilege of participating in a unique program benefiting those living in poverty around the world.

The inmate has been approved and trained to “neutralize” donated, recycled eyeglasses, collected by Lions Club throughout California. Approved inmates at Lancaster Prison process all glasses collected by the *club name* _____ Lions Club.

But Lancaster prisoners have stopped processing because the donation of glasses has dwindled while the need has increased.

The neutralizing process includes cleaning, determining prescription using specialized equipment and preparing for shipping to the central warehouse in Vallejo, California. All part of Lions in Sight, (www.lionsinsight.org) the warehouse normally receives thousands of pairs of recycled glasses, processed by inmates from several prisons throughout the state.

Each year, the *club name* _____ Lions club collects approximately _____ pairs of glasses, dropped off by residents at City collections sites at _____ *insert addresses of collection boxes* _____.

After processing, the glasses are taken by Lions Club volunteers from around the country, on clinic missions around the world. In conjunction with the local Lions in each area visited, the clinics offer free exams by eye doctors, part of the volunteer clinic team, followed by receiving a free pair of the recycled eyeglasses, which most closely match their needed prescription.

Several Lions club members from the area have volunteered as part of a clinic mission team. Visiting such places as small towns and villages in Mexico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Argentina, Nepal and Sri Lanka, providing glasses to several thousand, many having no access to eye care within hundreds of miles of their village.

Glasses, neutralized by Lancaster prisoners and stored at the Lions in Sight warehouse, have also been shipped to major disaster areas around the globe. Following the tsunami in Southeast Asia, more than 300,000 pairs of

glasses made their way to local Lions' eye clinics in the devastated countries. Survivors of major earthquakes and/or severe, damaging weather causing hardship in under-developed countries have benefited from recycled eyeglasses. The glasses, which are donated by city name residents, collected by the club name Lions, processed by prisoners and distributed by volunteers associated with Lions in Sight, change the lives of recipients. Children, unable to see clearly to learn in school, those enduring daily headaches from eye strain, car mechanics unable to read part numbers for repairs, elderly unable to see TV, sew or enjoy the faces of their grandchildren/family members, all benefit from the simple act of taking used, prescription eyeglasses to any of the city name collection sites.

club name Lions are asking everyone to check around their homes for no longer used, prescription eyeglasses and/or magnifying readers, ask family, friends, co-workers to participate also and drop the glasses off at local collection sites. This basic gesture becomes a major improvement in the quality of life for so many.

INSERT your club meeting and contact info here.

